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News and information about the premier map collections of the Library of Congress.

Remembering Richard Stephenson

Forty Five Years of Service at the Library of Congress

Richard W. Stephenson, a founding member of the Philip Lee Phillips Map Society, and who served 45 years at the Library of Congress, died on September 25, 2013 at the age of 83.

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chief of G&M, recalls Mr. Stephenson's work at the Library.

When I first met Dick nearly fifty years ago while doing research in the Reading Room of the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division, then located in the Library's Adams Building, he was already a veteran member of the Library, having begun work there on a temporary basis during World War II at the age of 14.

His career at the Library of Congress would go on to span 45 years. Dick retired from the Library of Congress in 1992 after spending 40 years with the Geography and Map Division, where he supervised the acquisitions unit and the Reading Room, and served as the Library's first Specialist in American



Cartographic History.

He was born and raised some eight blocks from the Library of Congress, where his father served as custodian of the Library's Capital Station and as Assistant Librarian of the Loan Division.

Dick earned a B. A. degree in Geography from The George Washington University and a Masters in Library

Science from The Catholic University of America, which he completed while taking night classes.

Not one to rest on his laurels, following his retirement from the Library of Congress, Dick began his second career after moving to Winchester, VA, where he quickly became associated

Story continues on page 6

Steering Committee Meets in Fla.

The Steering Committee met on November 1 in Tampa, Florida.

Three new members were added to the Steering Committee: Bob David of Florida, Richard Pflederer of Virginia, and James Walker of Oregon. Each gentleman brings an interesting professional background and a great enthusiasm for maps to the group.

*

The group has agreed to “table” any substantial name change. Going forward, publications will bear the title Philip Lee Phillips Map Society of the Library of Congress: Friends of the Geography and Map Division.

*

Dr. Margrit Krewson, former Library of Congress German/Dutch Area Specialist, was a special guest who was honored for her unwavering commitment to the Library's acquisitions of the unique Waldseemüller world wall maps of 1507 and 1516 and the recently purchased 1516 Dürer Star Chart, which was originally part of the same portfolio with the Waldseemüller maps.

Chief Ralph Ehrenberg thanked Dr. Krewson in a letter of gratitude that he read before the Committee describing her two decades long effort, much of it during her retirement, to ensure that these treasures were acquired by the Library.

In recognition of her significant contributions to the Library, G&M, and to scholarship, the Steering Committee named Dr. Krewson the first honorary member of the Phillips Society.

*

Chief Ehrenberg reported that the Division, in conjunction with the Phillips Society, will be publishing an “Occasional Papers” series. The first installment will be an article on the mapping of Washington, D.C. by the late Richard W. Stephenson.

*

A joint publication with the Academia Sinica Digital Center in Taiwan titled, *Reading Imperial Cartography: Ming—Qing Historical Maps in the Library of Congress*, is scheduled to be released in November. It includes contributions and translations from Min Zhang, G&M Head of Cataloging, Cordell Yee of St. John's College and a member of the Phillips Society's Academic Advisors, prepared a contextual essay. Mr. Ehrenberg wrote an introduction on the acquisition of the maps. Dr. Tien-jen Lin from the National Palace Museum, Taiwan provided descriptive annotations to 157 maps.

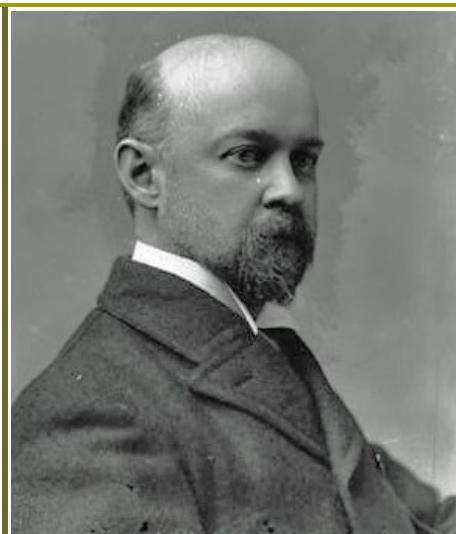
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The Phillips Society has received \$52,100 in donations for calendar year 2013. The group spent \$32,663. The largest expense was the annual conference. The budget's present balance is \$239,381.

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The Steering Committee has set a goal of raising an accumulated \$1 million in donations by the time of the annual conference in May 15, 2014. The organization has accumulated \$939,154 since its inception in 1995.

By Ryan Moore



The Philip Lee Phillips Map Society of the Library of Congress is named in honor of Philip Lee Phillips (1857-1924), the first Superintendent of Maps at the Library of Congress when the Hall of Maps and Charts was established in 1897.

The group is a non-profit, voluntary association whose objective is to develop, enhance, and promote the work of the Geography and Map Division by advancing its publication, education, exhibition, preservation and acquisition programs.

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Austro-Hungarian Map Project

G&M has re-housed its collection of topographic maps of the former Austria-Hungarian Empire known as *Spezialkarte der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie*. With the original maps safely protected, a microfilm copy is available for general research. The Division intends to scan and place the set online in the future.

The materials are an invaluable tool for genealogical and historical study.

They were published by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy's *Militärgeographisches Institut* from 1877 to 1914, with subsequent editions drafted, printed, and re-issued by other mapping authorities into the late 1930s. Initially consisting of 776 sheets, revisions and new editions have increased this to more than 5,000.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed suddenly at the end of WWI. She was multinational and had eight official languages; many more unofficial

ones existed. The erstwhile empire was plagued with internal strife that prompted a series of exoduses. The United States was the primary destination. Since 1820 more than 4.3 million people immigrated to America. Notable among them were newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, escape artist Harry Houdini and composer Antonin Dvořák.

The collection, mapped at a scale of 1:75,000, depicts nearly all towns, villages, hamlets, and *shtetls* (Yiddish for "little town") throughout the former empire. Earlier editions tend to record place names by their German cognates, though they can also identify them by their Slavic, Hungarian, Latin, or Romanian cognates.

The feature is especially helpful to those seeking the location of an ancestral community, which may have changed names one or more times within a brief historical period. There-

fore, utilizing historical gazetteers along with the collection is suggested.

Most of the geographic data was compiled from rigorous mathematical surveys. The earliest editions of the sheets especially were beautifully drawn and engraved, and printed in single color or on heavy linen paper. For later editions, however, the publishers resorted to the more economical lithography that allowed them to add minimal coloring to vegetation and place names.

The maps include a trove of other physical and cultural features, such as highways, roads, and trails; railroads; telegraph lines; post offices; churches, synagogues, and mosques; cemeteries; castles; mines; mills; factories; bridges; rivers, streams, and lakes; international and lower-level administrative boundaries; and woodlands, forests, and lands under cultivation.

By Mike Klein

How the Nazis Wiped a Czech Town from the Map

The Nazis razed the small Czech village of Lidice in 1942 in retaliation for the assassination of SS General Reinhard Heydrich, the chief German official in occupied Czechoslovakia, by two Czech partisans.

Every adult male and fifty-two women were shot, and all surviving women and children were deported either for extermination or "Germanization." The entire village was blasted with dynamite and ploughed with bulldozers so that no trace of it remained.

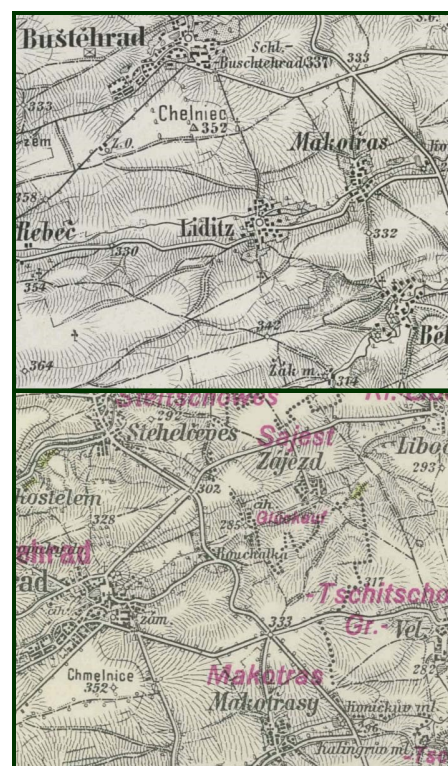
Illustrated here are two editions of sheet 3952 from the *Spezialkarte der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie* series. The earliest edition dated 1881 depicts Lidice, or the German form, Liditz, which for centuries had been a small agricultural village.



The later, German edition of the map, dated October 1943, excludes the name and depiction of the village.

Literally, Nazi cartographers have wiped Lidice off the map. A new town by the same name has since been re-established not far from its original site.

By Mike Klein



Sea Monsters and Medieval Maps

G&M Scholar Explores Topic in Latest Book

Oceans in medieval times were frightening places filled with monsters, according to the maps of the era.

Chet Van Duzer, G&M staff member, has written a book on the topic titled *Sea Monsters on Medieval and Renaissance Maps*. The 144-page book is published by the British Library.

Van Duzer supported his book's release with a talk at the Library of Congress in September.

The author was inspired to write after a trip in 2009 to the National Library in Madrid, where he consulted a fifteenth-century manuscript of Ptolemy's *Geography* and "saw that its maps had sea monsters everywhere." Realizing there was not a thorough study of the topic, Van Duzer commenced his research.

The final product is a book that takes a meticulous, encyclopedic approach to describing sea monsters. Whenever possible, Van Duzer references the sources from where the map creators "borrowed" their conceptions.

The book begins with the earliest *mappaemundi*, a type of proto-world map on which these monsters appear in the tenth century, and continues to the end of the sixteenth century.

Monsters Based on "Science"

Van Duzer argues that medieval cartographers believed that the sea monsters they were depicting were real, and that they relied on "scientific sources" of the day. The notion was that for every land animal, there was a sea animal equivalent.

Cartographers based these representations of the seas from accounts given

by sailors who claimed to have mistaken whales for islands or were tricked into harm's way by sirens. Others claimed that flying creatures plucked fellow sailors from their ships and cast them into the deep blue sea.

Warding off Monsters

Sea charts were a favored medium for presenting leviathans of the deep, Van Duzer said.

Olaus Magnus's chart of 1539 showed the waters off the Norwegian coast filled with dangerous monsters. The Swedish cartographer illustrated desperate sailors unleashing barrels as a man on the ship plays a trumpet in order to scare a pair of whale-like monsters away. These were suggested "methods" to ward off attacks.

Sea Monsters as Symbols

Drawing sea monsters was a business for skilled artists who specialized in the genre. Pierre Desceliers's world map of 1550 is one example, where a siren is depicted admiring herself in a mirror. The colors and brushstrokes are different from the main body of the work. Van Duzer argues this suggests the hand of a "sea monster specialist" was employed. (*Editor's note: see*



A siren from Paolo Forlani's map of 1565.

the next page for more information.)

By the seventeenth century, man's knowledge of the seas had advanced, and many illustrations of monsters were largely decorative and at times, purposely symbolic.

A famous example is present in Martin Waldseemüller's 1513 *Carta Marina*. It shows King Manuel of Portugal riding a sea monster Triton-style just to the east of the Cape of Good Hope. The empire's dominance over the sea is being noted, Van Duzer said.

By Ryan Moore

Sea Monster Artists Alive in Brushstrokes

The names of medieval artists who illustrated maps with depictions of monsters are lost to history, but evidence of their input to the mapmaking process can be found in brushstrokes, said Chet Van Duzer, G&M staff member and author on the topic.

A good example is Pierre Desceliers's large and gloriously colored manuscript world map of 1550, which was made for either King Henry II of France or the Duc de Montmorency.

The map is decorated

with ships as well as sea monsters, each with a patch of wavy ocean water painted beneath it.

While studying the map, a scene along the Horn of Africa caught his attention. There along southern tip of Africa is a siren admiring herself in a mirror in a gesture of vanity, and to the right, a ship sailing to the east.

The styles in which the water is painted beneath the siren and that under the ship are quite different, he said adding that the colors

of the water are not alike. Additionally, differences may be perceived in the water beneath other sea monsters and ships elsewhere on the map, he said.

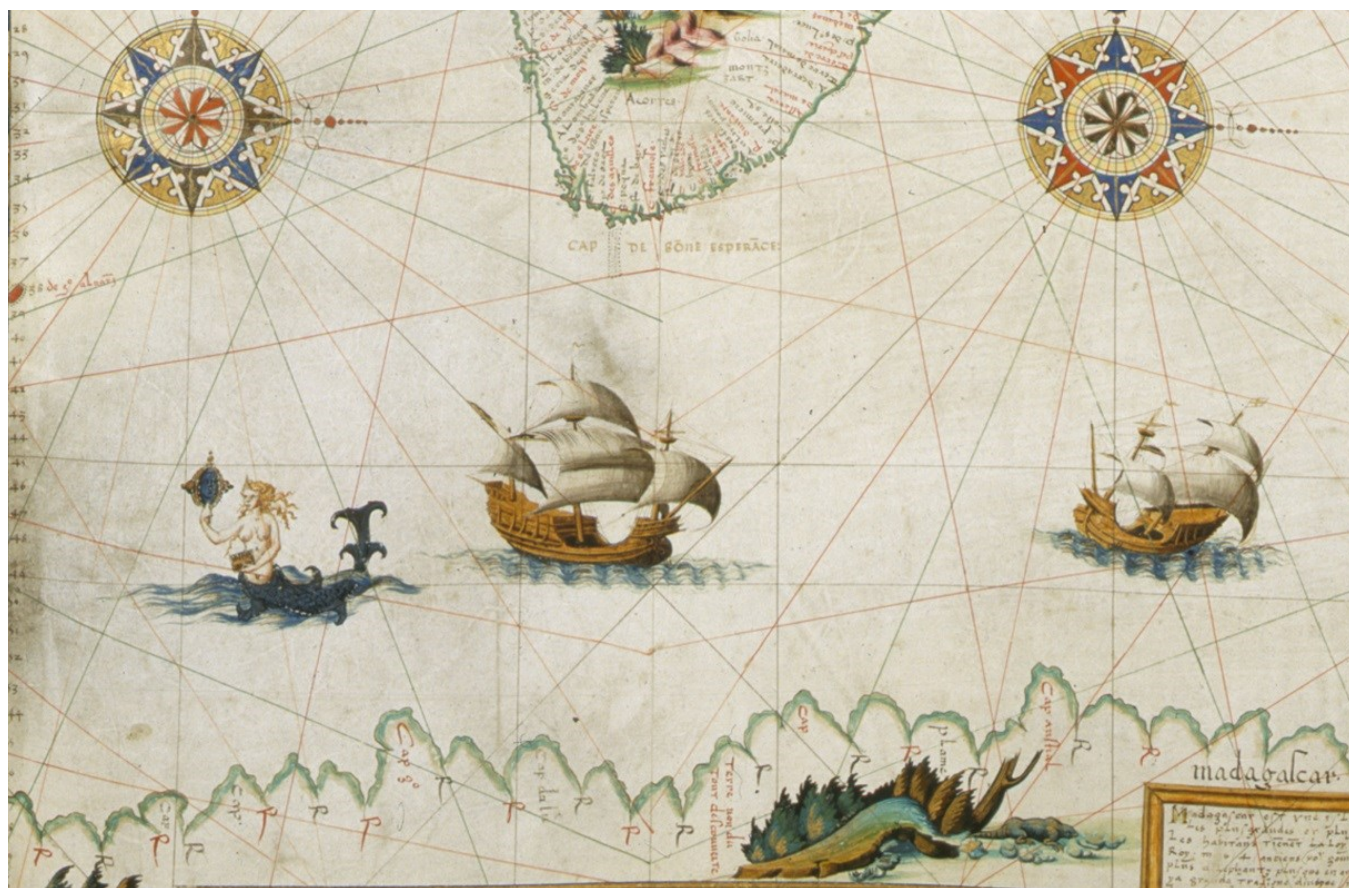
Desceliers probably colored the water beneath the ships, and it seems likely that he painted the ships, he said.

However, its highly likely he had help from a specialist who painted the sea monsters, Van Duzer said.

Illustrated below is a portion of Desceliers's 1550 map which is in the British

Library.

By Ryan Moore



Remembering a Colleague

with the Handley Regional Library Board, serving as its chairman for six years, and co-chair of the Handley Regional Library's 100th Anniversary Planning Committee.

During a distinguished career that spanned seven decades, Dick generously shared his unrivaled knowledge of the Geography and Map Division's collections, historical cartography, and map librarianship through teaching, and through numerous exhibitions and publications.

For many years he taught graduate level courses, including "Map Librarianship," the "History of Maps and Map Collection," and the "History of Cartography" at The Catholic University of America and George Mason University. More recently, he had taught an eight-week course for senior citizens at Shenandoah University's Center for Lifelong Learning.

Dick's passion for the history and geography of our region found expression in major exhibitions, several authoritative books, reference aids, and some 40 articles.

The exhibitions included *City of Magnificent Distances: The Nation's Capital*, a memorable exposition at the Library of Congress in 1991 that commemorated the 200th anniversary of Peter Charles L'Enfant's plan of Washington, D.C., and *Jed Hotchkiss: Shenandoah Valley Mapmaker*, a similarly impressive presentation that opened at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Va. in 2009 and then traveled to the Library of Congress.

His major publications include



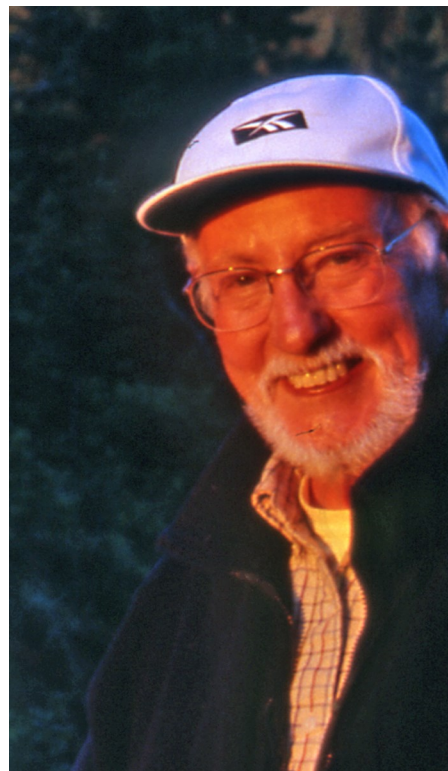
Richard Stephenson introducing G&M's Civil War exhibit in 1989.

Civil War Maps: An Annotated List of Maps and Atlases in the Library of Congress (1989); "*A Plan Wholly New*": Pierre Charles L'Enfant's Plan of the City of Washington (1993); and *Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development*, which he co-edited with Marianne McKee (University of Virginia Press, 2000).

Dick will be greatly missed.

By Ralph E. Ehrenberg

Chief of G&M



Richard Stephenson on the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail in 1999.

G&M Staff Assist at National Book Festival

Jacquie Nolan (right) and six other G&M staff members volunteered to work at the National Book Festival September 21-22 on the National Mall.

Ms. Nolan gave a presentation on the Division's Congressional Cartography Program, which includes the use of GIS, geographic information system, a software program that allows for the creation of original maps or to add data to existing maps to illustrate a problem or plan.

Chet Van Duzer gave a talk on Renaissance Cartography.

Iris Taylor, Colleen Cahill, Edward Redmond and Mike Buscher volunteered at the event.



Colleagues Recall Stephenson

"Dick was a mentor to many." — John Hébert, former Chief, G&M

"I recall Dick with fondness and friendship. He was always a charming and helpful colleague." — Francis Herbert, former Map Curator, The Royal Geographic Society

"Dick leaves behind an impressive body of work ... He remains with us in many ways." — Heather Wanser, Preservation Specialist, Library of Congress

"I will always think of him as the reincarnation of Philip Lee Phillips." — John Hessler, Kislak Collection Curator, G&M

"Dick was one of the nicest, most congenial men I have known in my life. His dad had worked at the Library of

Congress, and Dick used to play on Capitol Hill as a small boy. He knew the history of the cartography of Washington like few did." — Bert Johnson, former President, Washington Map Society

"I will always remember the first day I reported to work at the Geography and Map Division. It was 1979 and the Division was located at South Pickett St. in Alexandria, VA. I was the first to arrive that day and the LC Police wanted some verification beyond an ID before I was allowed to enter. A couple of minutes later Dick Stephenson arrived and I introduced myself. Dick, who was Head of the G&M Reading Room at the time, listened carefully and told the officer that I was legitimate. He also told the officer that he could certainly understand the officer's reluctance to allow me to enter and commented that the Library of Congress must have dramatically lowered its standards in hiring new technicians. The officer heartily agreed

and after a short pause they burst out laughing. I immediately felt welcomed and at home." — Mike Buscher, Acting Head of Reference, G&M

"He was well known to historians of American cartography." — Ron Grim, Boston Public Library

"Sad to learn of Dick's passing. Such a friendly, gentle guy." — Edward Dahl, Curator, National Archives of Canada

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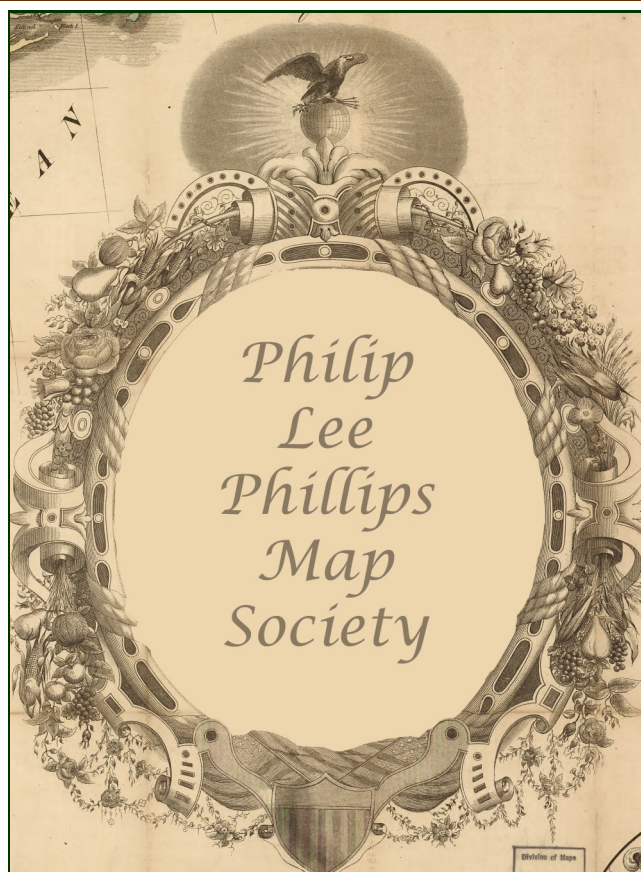
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Ex Officio

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chief, G&M

John R. Hébert, Chief, G&M , 1999-2011

John A. Wolter, Chief, G&M, 1978-1991